

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An alloy endowed with high-temperature mechanical strength in an oxidizing medium, said alloy being free of molybdenum and/or tungsten and comprising a chromium-containing matrix strengthened by precipitation of carbides, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said alloy comprises carbides of at least one metal (M) ~~chosen from selected from the group consisting of~~ titanium, zirconium and hafnium, said carbides optionally further ~~containing~~ comprising tantalum (M').

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ it which comprises a matrix based on cobalt or nickel or iron-nickel.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that it~~ , which comprises at least 0.2%, ~~especially at least 0.6%~~, carbon by weight.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that it~~ claim 1, which comprises the metal M, and optionally M', in a metal/carbon molar ratio  $(M + M')/C$  of around 0.9 to 2, ~~in particular 0.9 to 1.5~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that it~~ claim 1, which is consists essentially ~~composed~~ of the following elements (the proportions being indicated in percentages by weight of the alloy):

Cr	23 to 34%;
Ni	6 to 12%;
M = Zr, Hf or Ti	0.2 to 7%;

M' = Ta	0 to 7% <sub>i</sub>
C	0.2 to 1.2% <sub>i</sub>
Fe	less than 3% <sub>i</sub>
Si	less than 1% <sub>i</sub>
Mn	less than 0.5%,

the balance consisting of cobalt and inevitable impurities.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that it~~ claim 1, which comprises 0.2 to 5%, ~~preferably around 0.4 to 5%,~~  
titanium by weight.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that it~~ claim 1, which comprises 0.2 to 5%, ~~preferably around 0.4 to 3%,~~  
zirconium by weight.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that it~~ claim 1, which comprises 0.2 to 7%, ~~preferably around 0.4 to 5%,~~  
hafnium by weight.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the Hf/C ratio is less than 1.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The alloy as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tantalum content is ~~around~~ about 1 to 7%, ~~in~~  
~~particular around 2 to 6%.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An article, ~~especially an article that can be used in particular~~ for the hot smelting or conversion of glass, made of an alloy as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10, especially by casting.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The article as claimed in claim 11 ~~that,~~ which has undergone a forging operation after the alloy has been cast.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The article as claimed in ~~either of claims 11 and 12~~ claim 11, which consists of a fiberizing spinner for the manufacture of mineral wool.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process for manufacturing an article as claimed in ~~claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11, comprising the casting of the molten alloy in a suitable mold.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process for manufacturing mineral wool by internal centrifugation, in which a stream of molten mineral material is poured into a fiberizing spinner, the peripheral band of which is pierced by a multitude of orifices via which filaments of molten mineral material escape that are then attenuated through the action of a gas into wool, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the temperature of the mineral material in the spinner is at least 1200°C and ~~in that~~ the fiberizing spinner is made of a cobalt-based alloy as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the molten mineral material has a liquidus temperature of around 1130°C or higher, ~~especially 1170°C or higher.~~